

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A calendar comprising:  
2           a set of date cells corresponding to an arbitrarily designated time period; and  
3           a theme applied to the calendar, the theme corresponding to an event  
4 associated with the arbitrarily designated time period.
  
- 1           2. The calendar of claim 1 in which the arbitrarily designated time period  
2 comprises a starting date and a target date.
  
- 1           3. The calendar of claim 2 in which the starting date or the target date or both  
2 are selected by an end-user of the calendar.
  
- 1           4. The calendar of claim 2 in which the event associated with the target date  
2 is designated by an end-user of the calendar.
  
- 1           5. The calendar of claim 1 in which the time period is designated by an end-  
2 user of the calendar.
  
- 1           6. The calendar of claim 1 in which the theme is selected by an end-user of  
2 the calendar.
  
- 1           7. The calendar of claim 6 in which the date range is designated automatically  
2 based on the theme selected by the end-user of the calendar.
  
- 1           8. The calendar of claim 1 in which the theme corresponds to Halloween.
  
- 1           9. The calendar of claim 1 in which the theme corresponds to a recognized  
2 holiday.

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1           10. The calendar of claim 9 in which the recognized holiday is Valentine's  
2 Day, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Easter, Independence Day, Channukah, Kwanza,  
3 St. Patrick's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Memorial  
4 Day, or Labor Day.

1           11. The calendar of claim 1 in which the arbitrarily designated time period  
2 corresponds to an event having personal or familial significance.

1           12. The calendar of claim 11 in which the event having personal or familial  
2 significance is a birthday.

1           13. The calendar of claim 11 in which the event having personal or familial  
2 significance is an anniversary.

1           14. The calendar of claim 11 in which the event having personal or familial  
2 significance is a vacation period.

1           15. The calendar of claim 11 in which the event having personal or familial  
2 significance is an upcoming trip.

1           16. The calendar of claim 11 in which the event having personal or familial  
2 significance is a wedding.

1           17. The calendar of claim 11 in which the event having personal or familial  
2 significance is a religious occasion.

1           18. The calendar of claim 11 in which the event having personal or familial  
2 significance is a graduation.

1           19. The calendar of claim 1 in which the arbitrarily designated time period  
2 corresponds to a sporting event.

1           20. The calendar of claim 1 in which the arbitrarily designated time period  
2 corresponds to an occurrence of a physical phenomenon.

1           21. The calendar of claim 1 in which the theme applied to the calendar  
2 comprises one or more design elements that are suggestive of the event associated with  
3 the arbitrarily designated time period.

1           22. The calendar of claim 21 in which the theme applied to the calendar  
2 comprises a shape or physical configuration of the calendar that is suggestive of the event  
3 associated with the arbitrarily designated time period.

1           23. The calendar of claim 21 in which the theme applied to the calendar  
2 comprises one or more of the following design elements: images, graphic elements,  
3 colors, shapes, textures, sounds, music, text and scents.

1           24. The calendar of claim 1 in which the theme applied to the calendar  
2 comprises a customized general theme.

1           25. The calendar of claim 1 in which the theme applied to the calendar  
2 comprises a personalized association.

1           26. The calendar of claim 25 in which the personalized association is derived  
2 from input received from one or more of the following input sources: a scanner, a digital  
3 camera, a video input device, or a custom text generator.

1           27. The calendar of claim 1 in which the theme applied to the calendar  
2 comprises a customized general theme and a personalized association.

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1           28. The calendar of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of milestones  
2 associated with the arbitrarily designated time period.

1           29. The calendar of claim 28 in which each of the plurality of milestones  
2 represents progress towards the event associated with the arbitrary designated time  
3 period.

1           30. The calendar of claim 28 in which the plurality of milestones correspond  
2 to events associated with a wedding.

1           31. A method of producing a customized calendar, the method comprising:  
2 selecting an arbitrary target date;  
3 specifying a theme; and  
4 generating a calendar bearing indicia suggestive of the specified theme and  
5 having a set of date cells that successively count down to the selected arbitrary target  
6 date.

1           32. The method of claim 31 further comprising selecting an arbitrary starting  
2 date, the set of date cells spanning an interval between the selected starting date and the  
3 selected target date, inclusive.

1           33. The method of claim 31 in which at least one of the selecting and  
2 specifying are performed manually by an end-user of the calendar.

1           34. The method of claim 33 in which the generating is performed by a  
2 computer system.

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1           35. The method of claim 33 in which, when the end-user performs only one  
2 of the selecting and specifying, a computer system performs the other of the of the  
3 selecting and specifying.

1           36. The method of claim 31 in which the indicia suggestive of the specified  
2 theme comprise a personalized association.

1           37. A computer-implemented process of generating a calendar comprising  
2 customizing a calendar based on at least one of a customer-designated time period and a  
3 customer-designated theme.

1           38. The computer-implemented process of claim 37 in which the  
2 customization of the calendar comprises:  
3           extracting theme data from a theme database;  
4           customizing the calendar based on the extracted theme data; and  
5           generating an information package descriptive of the customized calendar.

1           39. The computer-implemented process of claim 38 further comprising  
2 transmitting the generated information package to a printing facility.

1           40. Computer software, residing on a computer-readable medium, comprising  
2 instructions to cause a computer system to perform the following operations:  
3           generate, or receive as input, information specifying a time period and an  
4 associated theme;  
5           generate a calendar bearing indicia representative of the associated theme and  
6 having a set of date cells that successively count down over the specified time period.

1           41. The computer software of claim 40 further comprising instructions to  
2 cause the computer system to perform the following operations:  
3           extract theme data from a theme database;  
4           customize the calendar based on the extracted theme data;  
5           generate an information package descriptive of the customized calendar; and  
6           transmit the generated information package to a printing facility.